



The Howard University School of Nursing in Historical Perspective

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EARLY PIONEERS

NEGRO nurses have played a very important role in the health care of the American people throughout the century. Through necessity, schools for Negro nurses had to be established because of the tremendous problems of segregation and the non-acceptance of Negroes into other schools of nursing. The first colored woman of record who graduated from a school of professional nursing was Mary E. Mahoney, who graduated from the New England Hospital for Women and Children in 1879, when other schools had closed their doors to the Negro applicant. From the days of Miss Mahoney, the history of professional nursing by colored women has grown by leaps and bounds.

The literature mentions 36 schools for colored nurses. The majority of the nearly 2,800 nurses who graduated from these 36 schools prior to 1928 came largely from the 10 largest: Lincoln School for Nursing, New York City, 493; Freedmen's Hospital Training School, Washington, D. C., 439; Dixie Hampton Training School, Hampton, Virginia, 281; Provident Hospital Training School, Chicago, Illinois, 226; Hubbard Hospital Training School, Nashville, Tennessee, 138; The Hospital and Training School of Charleston, South Carolina, 127; Mercy Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 136; St. Agnes Hospital, Raleigh, North Carolina, 172; Flint-Goodridge Hospital, New Orleans, 137; and Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, 128.

The *Provident Hospital Training School for Nurses* in Chicago, Illinois was founded in 1891

by Dr. Daniel Hale Williams for the purpose of training colored women for the profession of nursing. One of the outstanding graduates of this school, Jessie Sleet Scales, was a graduate of the fourth class in 1895. She had a strong desire to



Miss Mary Mahoney

become a district or public health nurse. Her acquaintances discouraged this and felt that her attempts at this would be useless. After many unsuccessful efforts, she did enter the Charity Organization Society in New York City and served as a district nurse and visitor for nine years. His-

tory records this incident as the beginning of paid district nursing and social work in New York City by a Negro nurse. The work of Carrie Bullock is equally significant. She graduated from the Provident Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago in 1909. Her application to the Chicago Visiting Nurses' Association was accepted. She served on



Dr. Daniel H. Williams

the staff of this Association for 19 years during which she became Assistant Supervisor and later a supervisor. Miss Belva Overton, another graduate of Provident Hospital, accomplished much during her lifetime. On finishing her training in the class of 1916, she was employed there as a Night Supervisor and later as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of the Hospital Training School in 1921.

The *Hampton Training School for Nurses* was founded in 1891 for the instruction of colored women in the profession of nursing. It was connected with the Dixie Hospital and has contributed to the number of Negro nurses who have made outstanding contributions. Anna DeCosta Banks bears the distinction of having been at one time the oldest trained nurse in South Carolina. After graduating in 1893, she was employed in the Charleston Hospital Training School for Nurses. She was later appointed Superintendent of the hospital, working under trying circumstances with inadequate equipment and virtually little funds. She had to depend upon voluntary contributions from interested citizens, working long hours and sleeping few. She was employed by the Ladies Beneficial Society of that city as a Public Health nurse and later served as a collector for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, collecting from its colored policy holders. She was one of the early pathfinders in nursing. Mrs. Ellen Woods Carter graduated from the Dixie Hospital in the class of 1895. After graduation, she accepted a position as

the Head Nurse at Good Physicians Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, the only institution where colored people received medical care. She was later employed by the State Board of Health to do midwife supervision and public health among Negroes. In Beauford, South Carolina, with a population of about 4,500 Negroes out of a total population of 5,000, she participated in health teaching throughout the community and received assistance from white and Negro physicians, who helped her to teach the laws of health and hygiene to the community composed of the uneducated people. After a few years, Mrs. Carter traveled in Rome where she had a unique experience of addressing a mother's meeting speaking on dietary measures and care of infants, and was honored prior to her departure to have the blessing of Pope Pius XI in the Vatican. Bessie Stewart in the class of 1899 was a nurse in charge of the girls' dormitory at Hampton where she was employed after graduation. Sarah Hodges in the class of 1903 was employed at the Boys' Hospital of Hampton for more than 20 years.

The *Tuskegee Institute Training School for Nurses* was established in September of 1892 to give instruction to young women desirous of learning the art of caring for the sick. The Training School became an integral part of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital and was under its administration. This training school was registered with the State Board of Alabama and its nurses were eligible to take the examination prescribed by the State Licensing authority. One of the outstanding graduates, Miss Petra Penn, a graduate of the class of 1906, served as Head Nurse at Hale Infirmary in Montgomery and later became Superintendent of Nurses at the Red Cross Sanitarium and Training School in Louisville. She worked as a metropolitan nurse in the same city but she preferred institutional work. She accepted an appointment as Superintendent of Nurses at the Pine Ridge Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, where she stayed for a period of 10 years, later accepting a position as manager of a small hospital in Miami, Florida, for 18 months. Miss Penn has made outstanding contributions to organizational work, was president of her own Alumni and for two years was president of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. While in this position, she made a strong plea for the establishment of a national headquarters for the Association

from which the affairs of the group might be directed. It is said that five graduates of the Tuskegee Institute Training School served in the camps during the Spanish-American war. The records reflect one male graduate, Oscar R. Gale, who graduated in 1894 and served as a nurse in the army hospital in the Philippines.

The *Freedmen's Hospital Training School for Nurses* was opened for the reception of students November 15, 1894. On December 19, 1895, the period of training was extended to two years. In 1896 the first class of 17 graduated. The outstanding members of this class were Mrs. Sarah Fleetwood, who later became Superintendent of



Sarah Fleetwood

Nurses at Freedmen's Hospital, Miss Lucy Ashton, and Miss Anna Simms.

Several outstanding graduates of the pioneer years have been mentioned in the literature. Emma Wilson graduated from Freedmen's Hospital Training School in 1899, later serving on the staff of the Henry Street Visiting Nurses' Association. She was assigned to the Columbus Hill District to do prenatal work which was one of the most congested and unsafe colored sections of New York City. Mattie Cabiniss McGee graduated from Freedmen's Hospital in the class of 1899. Shortly after graduation she went to Richmond, Virginia, to fill the position of Superintendent of the Richmond Hospital and Training School for Nurses, later returning to Freedman's Hospital as night supervisor where she worked for 13 years. Elizabeth Tyler was another pathfinder. After graduating from Freedmen's Hospital Training School for Nurses, did private duty nursing chiefly with the Smith College students as patients, later accepting a position at A & M College in Normal, Alabama, as a resident nurse and a teacher of physiology

and hygiene. Afterward, she took a position at the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School at Lawrenceville, Virginia, to teach the same subjects. She was the first Negro nurse to be accepted at the Henry Street Nursing Settlement in New York City on the visiting nurse staff of that organization. After several years of various work and various positions she was successful in receiving an appointment at the Henry Phipps Institute in Philadelphia which is located in the heart of the Black Belt. At that time the clinic treated less than 100 colored people annually and she was the first colored nurse employed by the organization. After seven years at the Phipps Institute she was appointed as a nurse to do welfare work in Delaware. She was the first of her race employed by the State Health and Welfare Commission of Delaware. She managed the child hygiene health aspects of the clinic and assisted in helping to coordinate the health work under one Commission. She later trained younger nurses to assume charge of this and extended herself into New Jersey, being the first colored nurse to be employed by the New Jersey Tuberculosis League where she was engaged in Health Education Programs, later going into the Essex County Tuberculosis League where she was engaged in Health Education among Negroes. Edith Carter graduated from Freedmen's Hospital Training School in 1898. After her graduation she returned to Rochelle, New York, the place of her home and worked in private nursing and later with the Henry Street Nursing Service. Mary Merrett graduated from Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in 1906. After graduation she was in charge of the Protective Home and Mitchell Hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas. While there she became a member of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, being among the first group to join this body. In 1911 she was assigned charge duty at the Red Cross Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. Frances Elliott graduated from Freedmen's Hospital Training School in 1912 after which she did private duty in Washington, D. C., and later worked at the Red Cross Office. She was the first colored nurse to apply to the Red Cross for work. She was advised to take a special course in rural nursing which she did and was the first colored nurse to take a course in Town and Country Nursing Service at Columbia University which included conferences each week with Adelaide Nutting and practice work at Henry



Class of 1912. Miss Laura McHale, Superintendent (center)

Street and the New York Board of Charities. She was provided with employment on Henry Street until she was called by the Red Cross which came in July of 1917 to go to Jackson, Tennessee, which was the first place to call for a colored Red Cross nurse. In 1918 the United States entered the World War and all Town and Country Red Cross nurses were automatically enrolled as American Red Cross Nurses. All of them received pins except Miss Elliott. She was advised by the Red Cross that they had not begun to enroll colored nurses, but later she received another reply from the Director of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing indicating to her that she had the honor of being the first colored nurse to be enrolled in the Red Cross and she received pin Number One. Miss Elliott served in cantonment work in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and when the armistice was signed in November, 1918, she went to Detroit to take charge of the Dunbar Hospital where she organized the first training school for colored nurses in the state of Michigan and graduated the first class who took the board and were admitted to practice. She later engaged in public health work and served on the staff of the Detroit Visiting Nurses' Association for 18 months, later joining the Detroit Department of Health. She was again the first colored nurse to serve in all of the departments. She returned to Teachers College at Columbia University in the fall of 1929 to work for her Bachelor of Science Degree having received

a Rosenwald Fellowship. Mabel Keaton Staupers graduated from Freedmen's Hospital Training School in 1917 with class honors for the entire three years. She worked as a private duty nurse until 1920 and in April of that year opened the Booker Washington Sanitarium and served as its first superintendent. This was the first private institution maintained by Negroes in New York City. She later accepted employment at Mudget Hospital in Philadelphia as Superintendent of Nurses, working with officials of the Pennsylvania State Board to standardize the training course for nurses. She became resident nurse at the House of St. Michael and all Angels for Crippled Children in Philadelphia. She was provided the opportunity to receive the Tuberculosis Social Service Training after which time she served as the first permanent nurse in charge of the Tuberculosis clinic maintained for colored people at the Chest Department of Jefferson Medical College Hospital. In 1922 she was employed by the New York Tuberculosis Health Association to survey the field in Harlem preparatory to the organization of a health education program. She maintained the distinction of being the first nurse executive of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses when their New York office opened. She served as its president for many years. She met the challenge of change in her time and that generation, making the merger of the NACGN and ANA possible. She was instrumental in bringing nurses from all

racial and ethnic origins together to work with ANA and the National League. She is the author of the book, *No Time for Prejudice*, which deals with the history of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, reflecting in depth as to why Negro nurse pioneers were impelled to establish a special nursing organization in 1908. When this organization merged with the American Nurses Association, it did not mean that their work was done or that there was nothing more to do, but it meant the time had come when Negro nurses were able to stand on their feet as individuals and voice their feelings, opening doors, breaking down barriers, and contributing to the process of integration. Miss Charlotte K. May graduated from Freedmen's Hospital Training School in September 1925. She received a temporary appointment as Superintendent of Nurses in September, 1927, and was later appointed as Superintendent of Nurses in January, 1928. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Co-



Mrs. Charlotte K. May

lumbia University. Other outstanding Negro nurses who were graduates of Freedmen's Hospital and have served in important administrative and educational positions include Miss Susie Coulbourne, Miss Minth Hankins, Miss Ruth Garrett, Miss Clara Royster, Miss Bertha Davis, Mrs. Bettie Marshall, Miss Susan Barks, Mrs. Georgia Penn Smith, Mrs. Blanche Jordan, Miss Martella York, Miss Margaret Braxton, and Mrs. Marian Seymour.

The *St. Agnes Hospital Training School for Nurses* was established in 1895. It was under the care of physicians and was registered in the State of North Carolina. Some of its outstanding graduates include: Blanche Catherine Hayes who graduated from the school in 1910. In August of that year, she was called to Rutherfordton, North Caro-

lina on Green River Plantation to nurse an old colored Mammy. Miss Hayes found work on Green River Plantation very interesting. She was the only person with medical knowledge within 11 miles. Public health nursing was almost unknown in North Carolina at that time, but Miss Hayes did much educational work among the tenants of the plantation. She was later called to nurse the daughter of one governor-elect of North Carolina. In 1919 she did Red Cross nursing in Talboro, North Carolina. In 1920 she was appointed to the school system in North Carolina as the first colored school nurse. In 1928 she was given a scholarship to do special work at Columbia University by the National Health Circle for Colored People.



Marion B. Seymoure

The *Flint-Goodridge Training School for Nurses*, established in 1896, was the largest and most efficient school for nurses in Louisiana. After the training school was formally opened on October 31, 1896, five women entered the course of training. In October, 1897 the school was taken over by New Orleans University. Eola V. Lyons, a graduate of Flint-Goodridge School of Nursing in the class of 1918, was at one time superintendent of nurses at this institution. She pursued a post-graduate course in general nursing and returned to New Orleans, giving much credit to her alma mater. She pursued courses in nursing education at Colorado Teachers College, working continuously toward elevating nursing standards. Another outstanding Negro nurse was Miss Fanny McDonald who held the position of educational director at Flint-Goodridge.

The *Lincoln Hospital Training School for Nurses* was started in New York City in May 1898. One of the graduates, Miss Mittie White, class of 1901, returned from London, England,

where she had done special work in a nursing home and conducted classes in invalid cooking. Miss M. Conway in the class of 1903 was night superintendent and Miss Ada Thoms in the class of 1905 was the first operating room nurse appointed. In 1907 Miss Alice Pearson, a graduate of Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, was appointed superintendent of nurses. She reorganized the school, raised the standards and added new subjects to the curriculum. Jeraline Winfield, graduate of the class of 1901, answered the call for home defense nursing in the American Red Cross and was accepted. However, she was only called upon for making and marking surgical supplies. During 1914 and 1915 she assisted in organizing the only colored Red Cross Unit in Worcester, Massachusetts. After returning to New York in the fall of 1918 just before the armistice was signed she found that no other colored nurse had been appointed in the Atlantic Division. She immediately reported to the New York County Chapter and was transferred to that Division and worked with it during the influenza epidemic. In the meantime she was appointed as an instructor in home hygiene, one of three in the United States. Cecilia Anderson graduated from Lincoln in 1900 after which she did private duty nursing. In 1909 when the first civil service examinations for school nurses were called, she took the examination; although before receiving the result, she had been appointed to the Charity Organization Society to succeed Mrs. Jessie Scales and so had to refuse the civil service appointment in 1910. She pursued work at the New York School of Philanthropy and continued in social work until 1916, when she again took the civil service examination and received an appointment with the school system. Minnie King Johnson in the class of 1903 was the first colored public health nurse to be appointed in New Haven. Louise Russell was appointed as day supervisor at Lincoln Hospital and later she was appointed to the New York public school system. Pamela A. Jefferson added to her professional training a course in Dental Hygiene from Columbia University. Finding opportunities limited, she returned to private nursing in Augusta, Georgia. Martha Harris, after two years of private duty nursing, accepted the position of Superintendent of Valley Rest Convalescent Home which was the colored branch of the Burke Foundation at White Plains, New York. She later resigned to become

Superintendent of the Home for Colored Children situated in Nova Scotia. This was the only institution of its kind for colored children in Canada. She returned to America in 1924 to take charge of the New York City Colored Mission Day Nursery. Clara May Harris graduated from the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing in the class of 1904. For several years she studied laboratory work and did private and visiting nursing there. In 1908 she served in the Department of Health in the Division of Communicable Diseases. She passed the civil service examination in 1912 and was appointed to the Department of Health in the Division of Child Hygiene. She was the first colored nurse in charge of a baby health station where she served for five years. In 1922 she passed fifth in a competitive examination for supervising nurse. Although her name stood at the head of the list for two years she was never appointed. She pursued courses later at Columbia University and at the School of Philanthropy. Angienora Makey Savage was a graduate of the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing in the class of 1906. She was superintendent of the Goodnow Hospital, Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, which at that time was the only hospital for colored people within a radius of more than 80 miles. Theresa Parker graduated from Lincoln in 1921. She accepted a position as charge nurse on one of the medical wards at City Hospital No. 2 in St. Louis, Missouri, after which he resigned to succeed Mrs. Savage as school nurse at Talladega. Mrs. Effie Watkins, graduate of the class of 1907, did private nursing in New York City for five years, after which she took the civil service examination and was appointed to the health department in the Bronx. She served as supervising nurse in the East 133 Street Baby Health Station. Rosa William Brown, graduate of the class of 1907, represented the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses at the International Nurses Convention in Cologne, Germany in 1912. Upon her return to America she did private duty nursing for a while and then she went to Jacksonville, Florida in charge of a small hospital. She did relief work for the American Red Cross among the flood sufferers in Miami in 1926 and was again called by that organization to do relief work in Palm Beach in 1928. Ella Sodonia Kiel served as head nurse in the Government hospital at Port Au Prince, Haiti. Christine Sumner was in charge of the general

operating room at the Lincoln Hospital for three years, after which she resigned to take a position at Talladega College in Alabama. Later, returning to her home school, she did relief work and taught in the summer session until she was appointed on the visiting Nurse Service in Philadelphia. Annie Papino Glenn did excellent work as charge nurse for the general operating room at Lincoln. She later accepted a position as Superintendent of the Daytona Hospital and Training School in Daytona, Florida. After serving for four years she returned to her own alma mater in charge of the home department. She later held a position as Assistant Superintendent of Nurses. In 1927, she accepted the position as Practical Instructor for undergraduates in Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, D. C.

Maria Clendenin, class of 1909, was the first Lincoln graduate to be appointed to the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service. After 10 years of service she was presented with a service pin by Miss Lillian D. Wald, founder of Henry Street Nursing Settlement. Jane Turner, class of 1909, was appointed charge nurse of the Gynecological Pavilion. After two years she did settlement work in New York and then accepted a position as head nurse in the Home Sanitarium, Jacksonville, Illinois for four years. She returned East in 1916 and was employed by the Philadelphia Visiting Nurse Society. She was the first colored nurse on the staff. After two and a half years, she was employed by the Philadelphia Health Council and Tuberculosis Committee. During this time she did nutrition work in the public schools, social service follow-up work for Jefferson Hospital and some health education. In 1927 she was appointed educational field secretary. In 1929 she accepted a position of supervisor of Negro clinics at the Henry Phipps Institute. When it became compulsory that nurses should take the examination before they could any longer receive the title of Registered Nurse in the State of New York, Jane Turner, Ellen Patterson, and Annie Papino Glenn were the first three of the group to pass the board, with a rating of 90 per cent. Lula Warlick graduated from Lincoln in 1910. After graduation she accepted a position as head nurse in the Gynecological Department and Operating Room at Lincoln Hospital and in 1911 she accepted a position at the Provident Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, as assistant superintendent of nurses. After leaving

there she became Superintendent of Nurses at General Hospital No. 2 in Kansas City, Missouri, a hospital with a bed capacity for 300 patients. After spending three years in that hospital Miss Warlick returned East in 1920 as Superintendent of Nurses at Mercy Hospital in Philadelphia. In 1924 Miss Warlick returned to Kansas City and taught Health and Hygiene in the high school for two years.

Cora Lee Watson Winston graduated from the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing in 1911 after which she did private duty nursing for five years and then accepted a position as Superintendent of the Sojourner Truth House, an institution for indigent colored girls. In the fall of 1918 Mrs. Winston accepted a position with the Protestant Big Sisters which was connected with the Children's Court. Genevieve Haithman McKinney graduated from Lincoln in 1915 at which time she took a position with the training school, taking charge of the home wards and training the probationary nurses. In January 1919 she entered the Health Department in New York City and was assigned to do school nursing which she did for nearly nine years during which time she pursued extension courses at Fordham and Columbia University. When an examination was held for the position of supervising nurse in the New York City Health Department Mrs. McKinney sat for it with 257 other nurses and obtained the highest rating. She was promptly appointed to this position which no other colored nurse had ever held.

Louise Ross graduated from Lincoln in 1916. Immediately after graduation, she accepted a position as charge nurse of the Dispensary Department and after serving one year entered the New York City Health Department. She later accepted a position at the Tennessee Coal and Iron Railroad Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. She served as night supervisor of the Colored Department, later going as Superintendent of Nurses to the New Home Sanitarium Training School at Jacksonville, Illinois. After two years she was asked to take the position as theoretical instructor at Lincoln Hospital. She has pursued postgraduate courses in general educational methods of teaching, psychology, bacteriology, clinical pathology, and pedagogy at the University of Chicago and Hunter College. Ruth Occomy graduated from Lincoln in 1918 after which she was appointed to serve on the Henry Street Visiting Nursing Service. After two

years she entered Columbia University to supplement her training in a course in public health nursing. She received an appointment as assistant supervisor of nurses in Charleston, West Virginia, in charge of the colored work. After three years of service in Charleston, she returned to New York and entered Bellevue School of Midwifery. While waiting for appointment to Africa as a missionary nurse, she returned to the Lincoln Hospital and worked in the drug room.

Marguerette Creth graduated from Lincoln in 1919. She returned to her home in Petersburg, Virginia, to do private duty nursing for one year. After six months she did public health nursing in Albermarle County, Virginia. During the next two years, she was a school nurse at the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute in Ettricks, Virginia. Miss Creth took a post graduate course in public health nursing at Teachers College at Columbia University. She was a graduate student on the Henry Street Settlement Visiting Nurse Service at the Urban League Center in 1923. Later she was appointed on the staff as senior nurse in charge of the Prenatal Clinic and remained there until 1925. In 1927 she was made Assistant Supervisor. Marian Pettiford graduated from Lincoln in 1920. She entered Columbia University, Teachers College Department of Nursing and Health on a scholarship granted by the Hospital Social Service Bureau where she majored in public health nursing and social service until 1921. During the next few years she was a student nurse at the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Association, later being appointed as a staff member. She was appointed nurse in charge of the Prenatal Clinic in 1922, Acting Assistant Supervisor and Senior Nurse from 1923 to 1925 and was the first colored supervisor at North Harlem Center, Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service in 1927. She pursued courses in social adjustment at Teachers College and mental adjustment at the New School for Social Research from 1927 to 1928. She observed pre-school clinic and nursery school work at Brussels, Belgium, in 1928, assisting in the revision of outlines and briefs for mother's club talks in cooperation with the Maternity Centers Association. Lucille Miller graduated from Lincoln in the class of 1915. Following graduation, she did pioneer social service work at Coconut Grove, Florida. She was successful in working out a nursing program of first aid in emergency nursing and school nursing, which in-

cluded preventable disease. She supervised and instructed mid-wives and conducted mothers' meetings, teaching them how to care for their babies. In 1918, Miss Miller returned to New York and entered the Department of Health as a school nurse, serving six years. In 1924, she accepted a position as nurse in charge of health service work in connection with the Christodora House, the oldest settlement house in New York City. At that time it was thought that Miss Miller was the only colored nurse engaged in that type of social service work.

Olive Taylor Hall graduated from Lincoln in 1915 and remained there as head nurse in the Home Department for one year. In 1918, she was appointed to the social service department of Lincoln Hospital as social worker in the Prenatal and Maternity Ward. She took a position in 1922 as prenatal nurse for the Maternity Center Association, having been the first colored nurse appointed or accepted on the staff. She remained there for one year and was transferred to the Henry Street Settlement to do similar work. After five months of service she accepted the position as Superintendent of Nurses at the John A. Andrews Memorial Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. She was later called for a position as social worker in the children's cardiac clinic, at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx. She remained there for a year and returned to Tuskegee to the U. S. Veterans Hospital for psychiatric social work with the American Red Cross. Nella Larsen Imes, a graduate of Lincoln in the class of 1915, served as assistant superintendent of nurses of her school for one year. Further professional experience included supervision and teaching in the Lincoln School of Nursing and at Tuskegee, Alabama where she served as superintendent of nurses for two years, after which she returned to New York and was appointed on the staff of the Department of Health. In 1922 she took a course in the New York Public Library Training School after which she was appointed as assistant librarian of the children's department in one of the library branches. After four years as librarian she resigned to enter the literary field and was the author of two novels, *Quicksand* in 1928 and *Passing* in 1929.

Inez Nealey graduated from Lincoln in 1922 and was appointed as charge nurse of the Gynecological Ward and Operating Room. After one year at Lincoln she left to take the position as

superintendent of nurses at the South Side Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. In the fall of 1923 she accepted a position as superintendent of nurses in Kansas City, Missouri at the Wheatley Provident Hospital, staying there for 3 years. In 1926, she returned to New York as a supervisor of a Jewish Sanitarium. Nahketa Williams, a graduate of Lincoln in the class of 1920, went to Liberia under the appointment of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where she remained for three years serving as a teacher and rendering valuable service as a nurse, conducting a dispensary on a small scale where many persons were treated for diseases prevalent in that tropical climate. From Monrovia, Liberia the Lincoln Training School received three splendid young women, Madeline Cooper, Jeanette Howard and Lucille Todd. Miss Cooper pursued a course in midwifery at Bellevue and Miss Howard and Miss Todd worked in the Henry Street Settlement where they were able to get experience which was of great value to them. Later they went to the Hubbard Hospital in Nashville, taking work in hospital management and anesthesia, returning upon completion to the Liberian Government and the Government Hospital which they had the pleasure of initiating. Miss Cooper was the Superintendent and Misses Howard and Todd were her assistants.

Mercy Hospital was organized in 1907 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Outstanding graduates include Gertrude Nicholas, who served as assistant superintendent at Mercy Hospital, Rita Miller, Elsie Harris, Mary Thompson, and Georgia Brown.

The George W. Hubbard Hospital Training School for Nurses in Nashville, Tennessee was organized in 1900. Listed among its early outstanding graduates were Hulda Little, Ester Maxwell, Rodda Pugh, Annie Giddens, Maybelle Northcross, Arspia Hardeman, Etta Brown, and Ethel Butler.

This hospital training school was later developed as the Meharry School of Nursing, offering a curriculum leading to a bachelor of science degree in nursing. In 1944 only 52 per cent of the student body were from the southern region as opposed to 92 per cent in 1960. Because of poor primary and secondary education of the southern Negro, the academic performance of the students at Meharry was poor and after the accreditation status by the National League for Nursing was threatened in 1961, the school was closed.

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

It is quite evident that the pathfinders in Negro nursing were limited to employment opportunities in Negro institutions, or in institutions wherein their services were especially designated for the care of the Negro patient. During these early years services in most hospitals in both North and the South were definitely segregated and few opportunities existed. Although Negro nurses had an opportunity to work in some hospital or in some agency, it was not very hopeful that the Negro nurse would ever become a fully accepted member of the American health team. Nurses were allowed to join the American Nurses' Association early in the nineteen hundreds; however, little was done to encourage their participation on any large scale, nor was any particular concern ever expressed concerning their special problems. This situation promoted the endless struggle that the pioneers in Negro nursing have had leading to the organization of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

Miss Martha Franklin, of New Haven, Connecticut, was one of the first Negro nurses to recognize the fact that Negro nurses needed more help than they were getting. She also realized that if Negro nurses were going to receive help, they would have to initiate it themselves. She was a strong advocate of collective action in order to identify problems that existed, work out some solution for them and put the course in action. She further believed that the organization of a national association for Negro nurses would eventually gain some recognition for them and would aid in eliminating segregation and discrimination in employment and in other areas of American life. She was one of the first organizers and motivating forces in the development of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses in 1908. After many problems and many, many discussions, this organization became a reality with 26 charter members.

They stated three main goals for their existence: 1) to advance the standards and the best interest of trained nurses; 2) to break down discrimination in the profession; and 3) to develop leadership within the ranks of Negro nurses. This organization was being developed at the same time that the National Medical Association, organized in 1895, was developing and experiencing the same kind of problems concerning prejudice in the practice of

their profession. The Negro physicians, especially Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, gave their support to this organization and were quite interested in seeing it succeed. A white friend of Negro nursing, Miss Lillian D. Wald, gave much needed support to the Negro nurses who were attempting to organize this group, especially in advice concerning organization.

Throughout the years of their existence, leading Negro nurses contributed much toward ending segregation and discrimination in ways such as eliminating discriminatory practices in the states concerning nurse practice examinations and education. Representatives of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses fought to gain acceptance and admission into other organized nursing organizations. They attended The International Council of Nurses and members such as Mrs. Alma John and Mrs. Alida C. Dailey were quite active and responsible for other nurses attending national and international meetings. In the meeting in Stockholm in 1949, Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne, who was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association, was selected by that organization as an official delegate. This was the first time that a Negro nurse had ever represented this organization, nationally or internationally. Since then, it has not been unusual for Negro nurses to attend all nursing meetings on a local, national, and international level.

The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses was quite instrumental in making scholarships and higher education available to the Negro nurse. The first scholarship award that was given to a Negro nurse was given to Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne by the Julius Rosenwald Fund for advanced study leading to the degree of Master of Science with a major in nursing from Teachers College, Columbia University.

In 1936 the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses established the Mary Mahoney Award which is the medal given for distinguished service to nursing. The first receipt of this award was Mrs. Ada B. Thoms, the author of the first history of the Negro nurse, *Pathfinders*. Since that time 17 other outstanding Negro nurses have received this award. These outstanding nurses include:

Petra Pinn
Lula Warlick
Ellen Woods Carter
Ruth Logan Roberts
Ludie Andrews
Mabel Northcross
Susan Freeman

Mary Merritt
Eliza Pillars
Marguerette Creth Jackson
Fay Wilson
Marie Mink
Helen Miller

The struggles of this organization continued and although the problems had not been resolved within the American Nurses Association, intergroup relations had been established. The Negro nurse was assured that the pioneer work of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses would be carried forward by the American Nurses Association. After 40 years of struggles to win the battle for full and equal status, the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses reached the goal which the charter members had established, to dissolve the NACGN and integrate the program with the American Nurses' Association, meaning that all qualified nurses, whatever their race, could participate on an equal level with all other nurses.

As of 1969 Negro nurses are realizing full participation in all activities and committees within the American Nurses' Association. Listed among recent appointees to national offices in the professional organizations are Mrs. Willetta Simonton, appointed to the Nominating Committee of the American Nurses Association; Dr. Lauranne Sams, appointed to the Committee on Research and Studies; Mrs. Helen Miller, appointed to the committee on the Mary Mahoney Awards; Dr. Anna Coles, National Committee on Legislation; Mrs. Kathleen Sward, National Congress for Nursing Practice; Mrs. Joyce Griffin, ANA Project for Recruiting of Disadvantaged Youth; Mrs. Ione Cary, Committee on Manpower, Subcommittee of the Commission on Nursing Services; Dr. Laurie Gunter, Geriatric Nursing Practice Certification Board; Mrs. Iris Shannon, Maternal Child Health Nursing Practice Executive Committee; Dr. Beverly Dunston, Standards Committee; Miss Marie Draper, Medical-Surgical Nursing Practice Certification Board; and Mrs. Rhetaugh Dumas, Division of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice Certification Board.

Negro nurses are holding important positions throughout the United States. They are represented on national committees and are holding positions as members and officers of State Board of Examiners, deans of schools of nursing and chairmen of

Nancy Kemp
Carrie Bullock

Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne
Mabel Keaton Staupers

departments. They have been appointed as full professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and research directors in many of the leading institutions of higher learning in the United States and abroad. They have pursued higher education past the master's level into the doctoral field and some have received medical degrees for the practice of medicine. Two known graduates of Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing hold earned doctorates, both from The Catholic University of America. Dr. Anna B. Coles, present dean of the School of Nursing, Howard University, and Director of Nursing at Freedmen's Hospital received her doctor of philosophy degree in Higher Education in 1967. Dr. Marie Wells Bourgeois, currently executive secretary of the Nurse Scientist Graduate Training Committee, received her doctor of philosophy degree in Anthropology in 1968. It is strongly felt that many other Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing graduates have achieved recognition on a local, state, or national level, but as in all professions and in all disciplines, those who accomplish usually fail to put it down on paper or to notify their alumni or their alma mater to keep them informed of their achievements. This is a crucial issue in Negro nursing especially.

The literature reflecting the accomplishment of the Negro nurse is not complete. There are wide gaps that need to be filled. This has much promise for a research project of great historical significance.

FREEDMEN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing dates back to 1894 when an ambitious young man, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, arrived at Freedmen's Hospital as surgeon in chief. He had formerly been in the same position at Provident Hospital in Chicago. He was quite familiar with nursing education or nurse training as it was called at that time and had immediate plans, after seeing the total picture of patient care at Freedmen's, for instituting a nurse training program in Washington, D. C. His plan had been so successful at Provident in Chicago that he felt that he could lift the plan intact and put into operation at Freedmen's without change. There was one real obstacle and this was that a training school for nurses already existed under the auspices of Howard University. This project had been undertaken by the former surgeon in chief at Freedmen's Hos-

pital. The Howard Training School offered nothing outside of outmoded didactic instruction two evenings a week with the promise of some practical experience in Freedmen's Hospital. Dr. Dan appointed as his superintendent of nurses, Miss Sarah Ebersole, whom he had known in Chicago. Miss Ebersole was white and has the distinction of being the first superintendent of the Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing. Dr. Dan and Miss Ebersole concentrated on intense recruitment efforts, asking those who were interested in nursing from all over the country to bring with them certificates of health as well as certificates of good moral character. Simple examinations in reading, penmanship, arithmetic and English dictation were given. Forty-six of the 59 applicants were accepted as the first student nurses in the 18-month training program.



Sarah C. Ebersole

During the first year there was much conflict between the Freedmen's Hospital nursing program and the Howard University nursing program which was under the Howard University medical faculty. The person responsible for the administration of the Howard University nursing program felt threatened by the Freedmen's Hospital program and loudly proclaimed that if the University abandoned its nursing school that it would be an initial step toward the inevitable curtailment or abandonment of the remaining departments of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. As the program at Freedmen's Hospital progressed it was quite evident to the medical faculty that it was going to succeed, and one by one, the members of the faculty realized that the two programs would not survive side by side. Although the administrator of the program continued to dissent, it was agreed to drop this first school of nursing at Howard University. The program was discontinued in 1895



Alida C. Daily

Jurhetta Smoot and Dr. Charles E. Burbridge,
Superintendent, F.H.

Ella J. Younger

having graduated one class of seven members.

After seven years of service Miss Ebersole resigned and Mrs. Sarah Fleetwood, a graduate of the Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing in the class of 1896, became the new superintendent of nursing. It was recommended that the program should be extended to three years for the purpose of "Securing a more efficient service to the Hospital by nurses in the three years and to obviate the breakdown of health of nurses attempting to crowd the work of training into two short years." Miss Fleetwood resigned in 1905 and Miss Sarah Tufts was appointed to succeed her. Miss Tufts also felt that the 24 month training program was too short and recommended a three year period to include a probational period of six months. The program finally received approval and was extended to 36 months in 1909.

In 1922 the interest in higher education for nurses was growing and demand for more academic preparation for administrators and faculty members in the School of Nursing was becoming a must. Therefore a five year program was established at Howard University in 1922 in connection with the Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing wherein young women could spend two years in the College of Liberal Arts and the remaining three years in School of Nursing, after which they would receive the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. This apparently was not too appealing because there was an insufficient number of applicants to warrant its continuance and the plan was discontinued after three years. The records do not reflect whether or not there were graduates from this program.

The Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing continued to exist under the leadership of Sarah

Tufts from 1905 to 1909; Laura McHale, 1910 to 1922; E. May Irwin, 1922 to 1927; Charlotte K. Maye, 1927 to 1938; Reva A. Speaks, 1940 to 1944; Alida C. Dailey for four months in 1945; Ella J. Younger, 1945 to 1960; Jurhetta N. Smoot, 1961 to 1964, and Anna B. Coles, 1967 to the present time. Of these 11 nursing administrators of the Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing, four were graduates of Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing—Sarah Fleetwood, Charlotte Maye, Reva Speaks, and the present director, Anna B. Coles. Through the years this program has undergone many changes. It has changed from a 36 month program to 33 months and is now a 30 month program. The curriculum also has undergone many changes. The most recent provides for the nursing student to pursue all of the liberal arts and science courses during the first year at Howard University without interruption for clinical experience or for formal instruction in the clinical nursing courses. The student is exposed to clinical nursing courses and clinical experience in the hospital setting during the summer session after the first year and for the remaining time thereafter.

The school has graduated 1,626 graduates as of this date and maintains an average enrollment of 80 students, more or less equally divided among three classes.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

On February 23, 1955, the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare appointed a 10 member Freedmen's Hospital Study Commission to consider the future role of Freedmen's as a medical training and research center, as a teaching facility for Howard University

College of Medicine, and as a service to the Washington community. On the basis of the report of this Commission, legislation was initiated which resulted in an Act transferring Freedmen's to Howard University and the authorization of a 500 bed hospital signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. The community, faculty and administrators of Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University were anxious to explore the feasibility of establishing a baccalaureate program in nursing at Howard University since the transfer was imminent. As a result of this interest Dr. Rena Boyle, Director of the Department of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing, served as a consultant to a group representative of the administrative officials of Howard University and the educational and the administrative officials of Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing. The conference group was divided into six commissions: organization and administration, educational facilities, admissions, student life, curriculum and budget. These commissions met separately for discussions and submitted reports. It was recommended that a collegiate school of nursing be established and be an integral part of Howard University.

Six years later, on April 23, 1968, the Board of Trustees of Howard University approved the establishment of a baccalaureate program in nursing and a Dean was appointed. It was proposed that the School of Nursing would function as an autonomous constituent of Howard University functioning within the philosophy of the University and responsible for promoting its purposes. Since schools of nursing differ in their professional thrust and concentration in education, it is relevant to state the basis for the development of this school.

It is the purpose of the school to offer nursing as a major area of concentration based on a broad program of general education which includes professional content. This base will allow the student to bring theoretical and conceptual knowledge derived from courses in natural and behavioral sciences, humanities and all other areas to the major concentration in the expansion of nursing knowledge. It inculcates the sense of shared responsibility with all the health professions, having as its ultimate goal the preparation of students for beginning positions in all fields of nursing and providing a sound basis for graduate study. This prepa-



Dr. Anna B. Coles

ration will also enable graduates of this program to assess, plan, implement and evaluate services to human beings in order to promote optimum health, prevent illness and provide individualized services for the restoration of health as a member of our culture and society. The graduate of the program will be prepared to think effectively, communicate thought, make judgments, and discriminate among values with particular emphasis on the care, cure and coordinative components of professional nursing practice.

The proposed program has been developed, submitted, and approved by the District of Columbia Nurses Examining Board. Financial aid under the Nurse Training Act of 1964 is being sought to provide for nursing student loans and scholarships. Students will spend the first two years in the College of Liberal Arts. In addition, they will enroll in nursing courses that provide a sound base for further clinical nursing courses in the junior and senior years. During the junior and senior years the academic program will include the upper division courses in nursing and clinical practice in the hospital and other community health agencies. A minimum of 120 semester hours excluding those hours in the required physical education courses will be required for the degree in nursing. A "C" average must be maintained to provide the 240 grade points necessary. Upon completion of the prescribed program the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing will be awarded.

SUMMARY

The history of the Negro nurse is not available in any single document, although Thoms identified

most of the Negro pioneers and those institutions responsible for their education. Progress, accomplishments, and status of Negro nurses and predominantly Negro schools of nursing since 1929 is in need of exploration in depth. Schools of nursing offering a diploma in nursing have closed consistently within the last 10 years. Some were dissolved completely, while others merged with community institutions of higher learning at the junior college level (associate degree program) or the college or university level (baccalaureate degree programs). This action has not been limited to Negro Schools of Nursing.

Hospital schools of nursing, where historically nursing training began, continued in 1968 to conduct the greatest number of programs. Of 767 hospital based diploma programs there are four fully accredited predominantly Negro schools.

Baccalaureate programs in nursing have increased to a total of 221 programs, four of which are accredited predominantly Negro schools of nursing. The Howard University School of Nursing is not included in this figure since national accreditation status can only be achieved after the graduation of the first class which is anticipated in June of 1973.

Several non-accredited predominantly Negro diploma and baccalaureate nursing programs continue to exist. Including in this group are those who do not meet minimum standards as well as those who never applied for accreditation by the national

accrediting body, The National League for Nursing.

The determination of the need for educational programs in nursing is usually made by the community after all resources have been explored. The continued existence of The Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing leading to a diploma meets the need of the community in Washington, D. C., especially at the 100-year-old predominantly Negro Freedmen's Hospital. The diploma and baccalaureate programs have their separate thrusts and objectives and produce products with different capabilities. The baccalaureate program in nursing at Howard University will contribute toward meeting these needs and they both will go forward together.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ASKS REPEAL OF ABORTION LAWS

Repeal of laws making abortion a crime was strongly recommended by the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The council, headed by former Senator Maurine Neuberger of Oregon, was appointed by President Johnson to advise him on how to improve the status of women.

Stating its belief that "no woman should be forced to be the unwilling parent of an unwanted child," the Council's Task Force on Family Law noted that "Even the pill, the most efficient contraceptive known to date, has a one per cent failure rate." If every one of the 22 million women who do not want to conceive in a given year could use the pill "its failure rate of one per cent could still yield as many as 220,000 unwanted pregnancies."

The report stated that the experience of other countries make it clear that "what the law permits or does not permit in this area has little effect upon the incidence of abortion."

Asserting that governmental agencies and the medical profession may offer service and counsel to the pregnant woman, the report stated that those agencies and physicians "should not exercise the power of decision over the woman's personal right to limit the number of children she will have and her right to decide whether to terminate a particular pregnancy she does not wish to carry to term."

The Council adopted the report of its Task Force which "recommends that laws making abortion a criminal offense be repealed and urges state commissions on the status of women to assume responsibility for educating the public on this issue."